

Regrade Policy

Deadline: One week after exam was returned to class (late requests will not be considered)

Math Errors: If there was an arithmetic error in adding up points on your exam, let us know right away, and we will record the correct grade. This doesn't constitute a regrade request. Just write a brief note on the cover sheet and give it to the professor or TA.

Rationale for Regrade Policy: The regrade procedure is intended to correct serious errors in grading. It is not intended as an opportunity to argue about each judgment call made by the graders. We agree that graders sometimes take off 1-2 points too many here and there, but we believe that they also give you 1-2 points too many just as often. When we regrade exams, we sometimes disagree with the exact points awarded on each question by the graders, but the total grade usually comes out the same. Our overall experience with regrade requests is that very few of them lead to a change in an exam grade, and an even smaller percentage have any effect on the final grade for the course. However, significant mistakes in grading do occur, if rarely. If you sincerely feel that your exam was unfairly graded, we will look at it over carefully. In that case, we reserve the right to regrade the entire exam, which may result in either an increase or a decrease in your grade.

How to Request a Regrade:

If you feel that a regrade request is justified, print out the [Regrade Request Form](#), fill it in, and turn it with your exam to your professor/TA as instructed. We always look at all the regrades at once so that we can compare them with the key and with each other. We think it is fairer to do it this way so **we will not discuss your regrade in person.**

Some Cautions: When calculating the final letter grades for the course, we try to give extra consideration to each student who is near a cut-off, to see if there is some justification for bumping the letter grade up a notch. We will keep a record of all regrade requests, and students who have asked for this extra consideration during the course of the semester may not receive additional consideration at the time that final grades are assigned.

Unfortunately, there have been several instances in the past where students have modified an answer after the exam had been graded, and then submitted the exam for a regrade. Because of this, we will not consider regrades of exams that corrected with white-out or other obvious signs of after exam correction. **A random sample of exams are photocopied before they are returned.** Any indication that a regrade has been requested for a modified exam will be considered academic misconduct, and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

What Merits a Regrade: The following are the usual circumstances that may lead to an increase in points:

- **Your answer is really the same as the one on the answer key, but the grader didn't realize it.**
Your explanation should make it clear *why* you believe your answer is the same.
- **Your answer is different from the one provided on the answer key, but your answer is also correct.**
Your explanation should make it clear that you have read the answer key, and why you think that your answer is equally good.

What Doesn't Merit a Regrade: The following are *not* valid reasons for regrades:

- *"Most of what I wrote is correct, so I think I deserve more partial credit."*
Partial credit is given equally for all students who write a particular answer, so it would not be fair to give you more points for this without adding points to all students who wrote the same answer.
- *"I wrote so much, and the grader didn't notice that the correct answer is buried somewhere within this long paragraph."*
You will lose points if the correct answer is accompanied by incorrect information or by so much irrelevant information that it gives the impression that you didn't know the answer, and were just writing down everything you could think of on this topic.

Acknowledgement: this page was prepared using rules widely applied by professors in all disciplines/universities and wording borrowed extensively from Biology C2006 / F2402 at Columbia University (http://www.columbia.edu/cu/biology/courses/c2006/regrade_requests.html)